



City of Yakima

NEWS RELEASE

Subject: Wife Uses Heimlich Maneuver to Help Husband

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Dedication of S Sgt Pendleton Way to Take Place on Veterans Day

A celebration and dedication ceremony to mark the renaming of a portion of “A” Street to honor Yakima’s lone Medal of Honor recipient will take place on Veterans Day, November 11th, beginning at 3:00 pm in front of the historic railroad depot on North Front Street.

In June, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (“VFW”) Post 379 and American Legion Post 36 jointly submitted an application to the Yakima City Council to rename a portion of “A” Street after U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Jack James Pendleton. Following two public hearings on the application, in September the City Council unanimously approved renaming “A” Street from North Front Street to 10th Street “S Sgt Pendleton Way”.

The location for the dedication ceremony was chosen because S Sgt Pendleton left Yakima from the train depot to begin his service in the Army. After he was killed in action, S Sgt Pendleton’s body was returned to Yakima by train and again passed through the downtown depot.

The November 11th event will also include World War II era music performed by the Yakima Valley Community Band before the dedication ceremony and a short procession following the ceremony.

S Sgt Pendleton was posthumously presented the Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, for his heroic actions during World War II in Germany.

In October 1944 while serving with Company I, 120th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division, S Sgt Pendleton took enemy gunfire and was gravely wounded in his leg while leading his squad in an attack on a German machine gun nest. Despite his injuries, S Sgt Pendleton ordered his troops to stay where they were and, using a supply of hand grenades, slowly advanced alone to within ten yards of the enemy position, all the while drawing a hail of machine gun fire to himself and away from his squad and other soldiers.

With the enemy gunners’ attention focused on S Sgt Pendleton, troops from his squad assisted another squad in taking out the German machine gun nest, allowing the entire company to advance and complete its mission during a critical phase of the war.

S Sgt Pendleton was 26 years old when he was killed on the battlefield near Bardenburg, Germany. He is buried at Tahoma Cemetery in Yakima.

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